BACKGROUND NOTE

The establishment of stock yards in Omaha began in the late 1870’s. The organizers of companies such as the Omaha Stock Yards Company and the Union Stock Yards Company hoped to make Omaha the principal market west of Chicago for the sale of cattle, hogs, and sheep.

The firm of Gilchrest and Hanna was shown in the Omaha City directory for the first time in 1888. Listed as livestock and commission merchants, the company took on a couple of different partners in the early 1890’s, but by 1893 had settled on the name Gilchrest, Hanna and Company.

Apparently, Richard Gilchrest and D.C. Hanna had engaged in the livestock commission business first in Monmouth, Illinois. Gilchrest moved to Omaha to organize and manage the new office at the Stock Yards Exchange Building while Hanna remained in Monmouth. With Gilchrest’s death on March 19, 1906, the company apparently closed its doors shortly thereafter. Gilchrest, Hanna and Company was listed for the last time in the Omaha city directories in 1906.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of three boxes of manuscript material consisting of weight tickets, 1898-1902 and n.d.; and a chattel mortgage, 1898. This collection relates to the business conducted by Gilchrest, Hanna and Company of Omaha as livestock commission merchants.

The weight tickets consist of cards arranged by date. These tickets show the purchaser of the livestock, number of cattle, hogs and/or sheep in the shipment, weight of livestock, and location of the livestock as housed at the Union Stock Yards. Some cards report on the number and weight of dead animals received in transaction. The last item in Box 3 is a chattel mortgage, 1898, which conveys livestock from Charles L. Smith of Custer County to Gilchrest, Hanna and Company.

DESCRIPTION

Box 1 Weight tickets, 1898
Box 2 Weight tickets, 1899, Jan.-Aug.
Box 3 Weight tickets, 1899, Sept.-1900, July; 1902; n.d.
    Chattel mortgage, Charles L. Smith to Gilchrest, Hanna and Company, 1898
Subject headings:

Cattle trade -- Nebraska
Gilchrest, Hanna and Company (South Omaha, Neb.)
Livestock industry -- Nebraska
Smith, Charles L.